every unit of weight or measures shall be based on the metric system. Thermometers are, therefore, to be marked only in degree Celsius. Most of the manufacturers, however, have been making thermometers with Fahrenheit marking or dual marking, i.e. with degree Fahrenheit and Celsius. Manufacture, sale and use of such non-standard thermometers amounts to contravention of the Standards of Weights & Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of Weights & Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. Such non-standard thermometers are, therefore, not submitted by the manufacturers for verification by the Weights & Measures enforcement authorities in the States. Enforcement authorities in some States are carrying out inspections of retail shops to check the sale of non-standard thermometers and launching prosecution in suitable cases.

(c) Government propose to take action under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 1986 to direct the use of the BIS standard mark under a license as compulsory for enclosed scale and solid stem type clinical thermometers to ensure that such thermometers manufactured and sold in the market meet the requirements of the Weights & Measures laws and also conform to the quality standards prescribed by BIS.

Collection of passport applications through postal department

*445. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department has been collecting fresh passport applications on behalf of the passport department from semi-urban areas in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many such applications were received through postal department;

(c) whether collection system by the postal department has helped the passport seekers in Karnataka; and

(d) whether more collection centres would be opened at Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Udupi and Gulbarga?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Nine National speed post centres in Karnataka have been collecting fresh passport applications on behalf of the passport office w.e.f. 5th March, 2001.

(b) 3,680 applications were received till 31st July 2001 through these speed post centres.

(c) Yes, Sir. The passport applicants in the nine districts in Karnataka can submit application forms for fresh passports and have them scrutinised and corrected locally without having to go to the Regional Passport Office at Bangalore.

(d) The speed post centres at Bellary, Raichur, Mysore, Udupi and Gulbarga are already accepting passport application forms from the general public.

Termination of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*446. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has decided to terminate all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Ministry of Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of the decision on employment generation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. It has not been decided in the Planning Commission to terminate all the Centrally sponsored schemes in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, nor is there any such proposal. However, a Committee of the National Development Council on Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been set up under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are:

1. To identify the CSS for retention by the Centre and those for transfer to the States/UT's and to classify all the CSS accordingly.
2. For those CSS which will be identified for transfer to the States/ UT's, suggest the modalities of transfer including earmarking, the funding pattern, the timeframe for the transfer and the monitoring mechanism.
3. In order to avoid future proliferation of CSS lay down the criteria for the introduction of new CSS.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.